

IN FRONT OF PETERSBURG, VA.,
October 31st, 1862.

In the recent reconnaissance towards the Southside Railroad the 2d Division of the 2d Corps bore a conspicuous part under command of Brigadier General Egan, who has been commanding the Division during the absence of General Gibbon. The 108th as a component part of the Division, had a hand in the day's engagement on the 27th. In the morning, at day-break, the boys forded Wyatt's Creek, which was breast deep in many places, and working through "slashes" (felled trees) charged upon and carried a heavy line of earthworks, and being fired up with a go-a-head principle pressed onward carrying a second line. The rush was too much for the enemy; they could not stand the pressure. During the day very heavy artillery and musketry firing occurred, and the movements were made skillfully and ably in a dense undergrowth of scrub oak. The enemy endeavored to flank and force our men back, but were repulsed heavily. It was one of the most brisk and hardest day's work of the campaign, yet the men stood their ground manfully and heroically—for which glorious conduct they have been warmly praised by Generals Grant, Meade and Hancock, who were present watching the movements with much interest. Darkness put an end to the incessant roll of musketry; and, soon after, one of the most severe storms of wind and rain set in that could fall upon a fatigued soldier. The object of the movement having been accomplished the troops fell back, bringing with them captured flags and several hundred prisoners.

The casualties in the 108th are few when looking at and comparing the hot work of the day. They are as follows:

Capt. D. H. Ostrander, Co. A, wounded in right arm, near shoulder, badly.

Privates John Van Mall, Co. G; Robert Rider, Co. H; J. Frank Geiss, Co. I; Joseph Fricker, Co. I—all slight.

The men are feeling well and hearty, and are ready for a tug with the Johnnies whenever called upon. Our Brigade, (Gen. Smyth's) is now in the front line of works, extending South from Appomattox river. Fighting occurs daily along the line. Petersburg is in view, but the stoppages to our entrance are ponderous and formidable. When we succeed in promending its avenues the telegraph will announce it.

TRUMB.

From the 108th Regiment.

IN FRONT OF PETERSBURG, VA.,
Oct. 4, 1864.

The past month has been one of considerable activity with the 2nd Corps, in which the 108th has borne its share of the duties, readily and cheerfully. As a Reserve Corps its feats of travel to the various portions of the line as required, gained it the soubriquet of "Hancock's foot cavalry." Numerous witticisms were indulged in, which served to keep up good cheer and ameliorate the fatigue of marching. If a halt was made, and the query was propounded why it was so, the reply given was, that we were "waiting for the cavalry to catch up." The regiment has also come in for its full share in throwing up breastworks and felling trees, to render it "a hard road to travel" for the enemy, in case they were disposed to try it. In the light of day, and in the murky darkness of night—in rain and mud (of which there has been enough,) the duties arising have been steadily performed.

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ous victories achieved during the past month, and the welkin has rung with vociferous cheers along the entire line, from the men who can appreciate truly such jubilant tidings. On the 16th our (3rd) brigade started after the "cattle raiders." The rebels however, eluded the halt intended for them, and got the beef; over which they exulted much, and bellowed along their line for several days at our men. The bleat, however, has been knocked out of some scores of them within a few days, and the work "goes bravely on." We remained at Prince George C. H. a week. It has been a pleasant rural resort for the transaction of legal business in days of peace. The buildings consisted of a brick Court House, County Clerk's office, and jail, and an ancient frame tavern of large dimensions. All, however, had been demolished. Old records were scattered around, dating back to the King Georges of England. While lying at this place, the men were engaged in the construction of a fort and bastion.

Upon returning to the front we relieved the 10th Corps, and since the 24th the 108th has been living under fire of shot and shell—behind works and in gopher holes. It is no desirable or agreeable mode of living this; the bearing by frequently of the shattered remains of comrades causes a shudder, but old soldiers shrink not from the perils of war, and send back the missiles with vengeance. The pyrotechnics (mortar shelling) at night are great and brilliant, but dangerous to the spectators. No stated hour is given as to the time this display will be made—the ball is likely to open at any moment after dark. Soldiers have a great dislike for mortar shells. In the explosion of rifle gun shells the breastworks afford protection, as the pieces fly forward, but mortar shells fly upwards and gracefully curving (rainbow-like) through the air, "call" where they are not expected. There is no staying in tented habitations during such shelling, for every one is out to watch, the course the villainous explosives are liable to take, or see that we don't get more pieces than are "accounted for."

On the 2d instant the 108th with associated regiments moved into Fort Davis, formerly Fort Warren, where we are now taking our regular routine of duty on the skirmish line. Missiles whistle over us and through our tents, yet, tho' firing is kept up, after night-fall the "soldiers sleep." Over the ground gained, mounds are visible, denoting the sepulture of our fallen. On the boards posted I noticed names of the 14th H. A. and 24th Cavalry.

The great struggle has now opened with the Army of the Potomac, and while the political ball is rolling at home briskly, balls are rolling thick and fast in this "dominion." The telegraph gives you the result of balls rolling here thus far.

A pleasing incident occurred this evening which has caused much rejoicing and great cheering throughout the Brigade. Col. Smyth, of the 1st Delaware Veteran Volunteers, who has commanded our Brigade with gallantry and ability, received his "star" as Brigadier General. The enthusiasm was great—so great that the enemy commenced a brisk firing of artillery and musketry, to which they got in return a fitting response.

The only casualty I have to report since my last is that of private Jeremiah Howard, Co. A, who was wounded by a piece of shell on the morning of the 2d instant.

TRUMB.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Return of the 108th Regiment.

[Apologetic.—Owing to the somewhat sudden illness of the Editor who presides over this department of the UNION, a notice of the return and reception of the 108th Regiment was inadvertently omitted yesterday. It is hardly necessary to say that no one can regret the omission more than ourselves. Below will be found an account of the interesting affair together with the full Roster of the Regiment.]

Word was received Wednesday that the regiment had left Elmira and would arrive on the 8:10 P. M. train on the Erie road. The report soon spread through the city and every one was anxious to give the returning soldiers a hearty reception, such a one as the brave boys of this regiment deserved. The Common Council Committee having the matter in charge immediately made arrangements for the reception of the regiment. The several military organizations and civil societies were invited to participate, and word was given out that the signal for assembling would be the ringing of the fire bell in the Court House. Major Lee, Mustering and Disbursing Officer, made immediate preparations for the camp of the regiment, and succeeded in getting the County Fair Grounds for that purpose.

The Court House bell was struck at a quarter before seven, and in an incredible short space of time the streets were filled with people all along where it was expected the returning regiment would march. The 54th Regt. N. Y. S. N. G., headed by Newman's Band, and commanded by Col. Clark, the Light Artillery Battalion under Major Lewis, and the Union Blues, under Capt. Waydell, proceeded to the Valley Depot, and were immediately followed by the Common Council, Fire Department and several civic societies. At the appointed time a salute by a detachment of artillery announced the arrival of the train, and it was almost impossible for the police to prevent the crowd from pressing on to and overwhelming the soldiers. They formed on the platform and the column started for the Court House, where they were addressed by His Honor Mayor Moore as follows:

Veterans of the 108th Regiment:

It is my pleasant duty to welcome you home, and to congratulate you upon the glorious battles and victories in which you have participated. After nearly three years of arduous, honorable and patriotic service, you are entitled to all the honors your fellow-citizens may render on this joyful occasion. You have represented us well and nobly, and are entitled to our lasting gratitude. The people of Rochester and Western New York are justly proud of you on account of your sacrifices, gallantry, bravery and heroism, as displayed on many well-contested and bloody fields. You have fought the good fight to perpetuate the Union and save the Republic, and will long be honored therefor. Your Regiment—many of whose members, like our late lamented President, have become martyrs in the sacred cause of Liberty and Right—was among the earliest to enlist and the very first, I believe, that was honorably discharged after the close of the accursed rebellion. It can therefore be truthfully said that you were among the first in War, first in Peace, and first in the hearts of your fellow-citizens who now manifest joy on your return.

In behalf of the municipal authorities I cordially bid you welcome to home, families and friends. As you now return to peaceful, and, I trust, profitable pursuits, may your future be

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since it has been our duty, as well as pleasure, to make suitable provision for your families—and we now invite you to a substantial repast after the fatigues of your journey.

After the boys had responded by giving three good, hearty cheers, the column was again formed and marched to the Brackett House, where a supper had been prepared for the soldiers. On arriving at the Brackett House they stacked their arms in the passage-way between the hotel and depot, and marching into the depot, sat down to the table. After supper the men were dismissed with orders to report at the Brackett House on Thursday morning.

The reception was very enthusiastic, the crowds seeming never to tire of cheering and waving their handkerchiefs all along the route of the march. The boys have good reason to be proud of the part they have performed in the work of putting down the rebellion, and they are well assured by the reception they received Wednesday evening that their services are appreciated.

Below we give the list of officers and men of this regiment:

STAFF AND LINE OFFICERS.

Brevet Brig. Gen. Charles J. Powers, commanding.

Lieut. Col. Francis E. Pierce.

Adjutant H. Halsted.

Quartermaster, Franklin B. Hutchinson.

Surgeon Francis M. Wafer.

Asst. Surgeon Robert Stevenson.

Sergt. Major George Rice.

Q. M. Sergt. John C. Harris.

Commissary Sergeant, Greenleaf E. Fish.

Hospital Steward, Charles H. Riley.

Principal Musician, Alex. Lockie.

" " David Norton.

COMPANY A.

Lieut. Jay W. Smith,	Christopher Kohde,
A. H. Christie, Sergt.	Nathan Parkhurst,
J. K. P. Gaylen, Sergt	Orlow Babcock,
F. C. Husritt, Sergt	Henry W. Dingman.
T. H. Steadman,	

COMPANY B.

Capt. J. B. Kennedy,	Hugh Craney, Corp.
2d Lt. A. B. Hadding,	Sam'l Moulder,
R. Gundry, 1st Sergt.	Henry Wright,
Orin A. Chilson, Sergt.	John Reed,
Jas Coughlin, Sergt	Chas. A. Hamlin,
Orville J. Talman	Marquis H. French,
Geo W Green, Sergt	Chas. Field,
Ed Whitney, Corp	H. Orman, teamster.

COMPANY C.

Capt. W. H. Andrews,	Jesse R. Squires,
2d Lt. W. H. Raymond,	Alfred M. Potter,
John Weigut, Sergt.	John A. Proseus,
Wm. W. West, Sergt.	Wm. G. Marble,
M. R. Donohue, Sergt.	Andrew Main,
Harrison Smith, Corp.	Joscs Green,
Jno. J. Fassett, Corp.	Geo. T. Ball, wagoner,
Marquis Streeter,	Wm. A. Jones,
Thos. Flagler, Corp.	Jas. Bisnitt,
Geo. Elliott, musician.	

COMPANY D.

Lt. Christian Tranggott,	Myron C. Fraser,
Benj. Fischer, Sergt.	Theodore Gage,
Jas. Plunkett, Sergt.	Chas. Howad,
L. Burton, Sergt.	Henry Heeg,
Lewis Sleecker, Corp.	Isaac L. Inman,
R. S. Conger, Corp.	Romayn B. Scantom,
Jas. McMahon, Corp.	Silas E. Stoddard,
Theodore H. Albro,	Wm. Willhan,
Henry Barnum,	Orville H. Stewger.
Jas. Bownes,	

COMPANY E.

1st Lieut. H. G. Richardson,	Charles H. Allen,
Alb. Horton, 1st Sgt.	James Hilton,
M. C. Bryant, Sgt.	Wm. Himmel,
P. B. Tinny, Sgt.	Chatman C. Hisby,
John Wickham, Corp.	Charles Miller,
Elixis Wager, Corp.	Joseph McMannis,
James M. Rose, Corp.	Wm. H. Moore,
John H. Parmler,	Gilbert G. Townsmd.
Alvah Atwood, Mus.	Edwin B. Beck, Mus.

COMPANY F.

